

REMARKS

Paragraphs 30 and 36 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors.

The amendment to claim 1 is support by the disclosure as a whole, including paragraphs 13, 27, 28, and 50-52 (Examples 1 and 2).

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Harris et al.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected as unpatentable over Harris et al., U.S. Patent 6,391,969.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

The present invention is a powder coating composition comprising (1) a reaction product of an aminoplast and a compound having one carbamate group and (2) a solid, thermosettable material. The reaction product (a) may, depending on the particular aminoplast, have a structure such as shown in paragraph [0028]. The carbamate group, being reactive toward the aminoplast functionality, is consumed to produce a urethane linkage.

The Harris patent discloses a powder slurry coating composition in which a solid particulate material (a) is dispersed in a liquid crosslinking component (b), which may be an aminoplast resin. Abstract. Component (a) may include a carbamate or urea functional material. Abstract. The Harris patent does not disclose a powder coating composition that includes a reaction product of an aminoplast and a compound having one carbamate group.

The passage in column 2 cited in the Office Action further describes suitable carbamate or urea functional compounds, but does not describe including a reaction product of such materials in the Harris powder slurry composition.

The passages cited in column 7 describe crosslinking resins, but do not describe a reaction product of an aminoplast resin with a compound having one carbamate group.

With respect to the argument on page 3 of the Office Action that the Harris components (a) and (b) include thermosettable material, Applicants note that the solid, thermosettable material is a further component of the claimed powder coating composition in addition to the reaction product.

With regard to unexpected results, Applicants would like to draw the Examiner's attention to the Figure illustrating the effect of adding a small amount of the reaction product of Example 1 produced a significant reduction if G' as well as a surprisingly smooth appearance, see paragraph [0056].

In summary, the Harris reference does not disclose or suggest a powder coating composition containing Applicant's reaction product or containing that reaction product in combination with a thermosettable material. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rehfuss et al.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected as unpatentable over Rehfuss et al., U.S. Patent 6,258,898.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

The present invention provides a reaction product of an aminoplast and the carbamate group of a compound having one carbamate group; the compound has no other group reactive with the aminoplast, thus the Rehfuss crosslinking agents are not formed. Compare, Rehfuss structure in column 2 and Applicants' structures in paragraph 28. The Rehfuss crosslinking agent must have carbamate groups, while the carbamate group is consumed in making the present reaction product.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection and objection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections and objections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if it would be helpful for resolving any issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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July 18, 2005
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